

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 30, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1442

Introduced by Senator Escutia

February 22, 2006

An act to amend Section 52244 of, *and to add Section 52245 to*, the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1442, as amended, Escutia. Schools: advanced placement examination fees.

Existing law establishes a 5-year pilot grant program, administered by the State Department of Education, for the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees. Existing law authorizes school districts to apply to the department for grant funding under the program based on the number of economically disadvantaged pupils in the district who will take the next offered advanced placement examinations. Existing law repeals those provisions on January 1, 2008.

This bill would delete the January 1, 2008, date, thereby extending those provisions indefinitely.

The bill would also establish the Advanced Placement Challenge Grant Program under which a high school of 4 or less advanced placement courses, as specified, would be eligible for a specified grant. The bill would limit the number of grants awarded on a competitive basis, as specified, to no more than 550 high schools. The bill would require a grant to be used for, among other things, to establish, train, and support vertical teams of teachers, as defined, and to purchase instructional materials and equipment for advanced

placement courses. The bill would also require a school that receives a grant to agree to specified conditions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 52244 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

3 52244. (a) There is hereby established a ~~pilot~~ grant program
4 for the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of advanced
5 placement examination fees. The department shall administer this
6 program.

7 (b) Any school district may apply to the department for grant
8 funding pursuant to this section, based on the number of
9 economically disadvantaged pupils in the district enrolled in
10 advanced placement courses who will take the next offered
11 advanced placement examinations. A school district that applies
12 to the department for this purpose shall designate school district
13 staff to whom pupils may submit applications for grants and shall
14 institute a plan to notify pupils of the availability of financial
15 assistance pursuant to this section. Grants shall be expended only
16 to pay the fees required of pupils to take an advanced placement
17 examination.

18 (c) Any economically disadvantaged pupil who is enrolled in
19 an advanced placement course may apply to the designated
20 school district staff for a grant pursuant to this section. A pupil
21 who receives a grant shall pay five dollars (\$5) of the
22 examination fee.

23 (d) School districts and county superintendents of schools may
24 join together and form collaboratives or consortia in order to
25 participate in the grant program established by this section.

26 (e) Grants provided pursuant to this section may not be used to
27 supplant fee waivers available to low-income pupils who take
28 advanced placement examinations.

29 (f) If the total school district applications exceed the total
30 funds available pursuant to this section, the department shall
31 prorate the grants based upon the ratio of the total amount
32 requested to the total amount budgeted by the state for this
33 purpose.

(g) To facilitate program administration and school district reimbursement, the department may enter into a contract with the provider of advanced placement examinations. For purposes of the contract authorized pursuant to this subdivision, the department is exempt from the requirements of Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code and from the requirements of Article 6 (commencing with Section 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code.

SEC. 2. Section 52245 is added to the Education Code, to read:

52245. (a) The Advanced Placement Challenge Grant Program is hereby established to assist California public high schools in providing access to rigorous, academically challenging, college level courses to interested and prepared pupils in the state.

(b) Commencing in the 2006–07 fiscal year, the Superintendent shall administer the Advanced Placement Challenge Grant Program. A school district may apply on behalf of eligible schools in its jurisdiction to the Superintendent for the award of a grant pursuant to this section.

(c) Only a high school meeting the following criteria during the 2005–06 academic year, and every academic year thereafter, is eligible to receive funding pursuant to this section:

(1) Four or fewer advanced placement courses are offered to pupils or in the case of multitrack schools, four or fewer advanced placement courses per track are offered. A school that meets these criteria shall have first priority for funding.

(2) No advanced placement courses in either mathematics or science are offered to pupils. A school that meets these criteria shall have second priority for funding.

(3) Low college participation rates by the school's pupils. A school that meets this criterion shall have third priority for funding.

(4) A majority of pupils who are enrolled at the school, qualify for free or reduced price meals or are from economically disadvantaged communities. A school that meets these criteria shall have fourth priority for funding.

(d) A school meeting a higher-priority criterion shall receive funding before any school meeting a lower-priority criterion may

1 receive funding, subject to a maximum of 550 high schools
2 participating in the program.

3 (e) In the 2006–07 fiscal year, the Superintendent shall award
4 annual grants on a competitive basis to no more than 550 public
5 high schools. The amount of the grant awarded to each school
6 shall be based on average daily attendance. The Superintendent
7 shall notify school districts and county offices of education of the
8 availability of these grant funds, which are intended to increase
9 a recipient school's capacity to offer advanced placement
10 courses.

11 (f) Funding for the Advanced Placement Challenge Grant
12 Program is contingent upon availability from one or more of the
13 following sources:

14 (1) Federal Title I, Part G "AP Programs" and other federal
15 sources.

16 (2) State teacher recruitment and incentive funds.

17 (3) Gifted and talented education funds and other state
18 categorical funds that this program is eligible to receive.

19 (4) Private, philanthropic and other funding sources.

20 (g) Grants shall be used exclusively for the following
21 activities:

22 (1) To establish, train, and support vertical teams of teachers,
23 as defined in this section.

24 (2) To purchase instructional materials and equipment for
25 advanced placement courses.

26 (3) To tutor and provide instructional support services to
27 pupils preparing for, and during advanced placement
28 coursework.

29 (h) As a condition of receiving funds pursuant to this section,
30 a high school shall do all of the following:

31 (1) Design and implement a plan that will result in pupils
32 having access, no later than the beginning of the 2007–08
33 academic year, to a minimum of four advanced placement
34 courses in core academic subjects.

35 (2) Agree to increase to 50 percent or more the number of
36 pupils enrolled in each advanced placement course who plan to
37 take the advanced placement examination, or annually increase
38 by 10 percent or more the number of pupils enrolled in each
39 advanced placement course who plan to take the examination,
40 whichever is greater.

1 (3) *Make every effort to ensure that pupils and their parents or*
2 *guardians are informed about both of the following:*

3 (A) *The school's efforts to provide pupil access to advanced*
4 *placement courses.*

5 (B) *The use of technology by the school to provide pupil*
6 *access to advanced placement courses.*

7 (4) *Utilize tutoring and support services to encourage pupils*
8 *to utilize distance learning options for advanced placement*
9 *course offerings. A participating school's plan should include a*
10 *variety of strategies, including, but not limited to, those specified*
11 *above to increase access to advanced placement courses*

12 (5) *To the extent possible, collaborate with feeder middle*
13 *schools to develop a preadvanced placement program that*
14 *includes, but is not limited to, the professional development of*
15 *teachers and school counselors, vertical teams of teachers,*
16 *curriculum development focused on the skills and knowledge*
17 *needed for advanced placement readiness, academic support for*
18 *advanced placement pupils, and notification to pupils and their*
19 *parents or guardians about the availability and importance of*
20 *advanced placement courses.*

21 (i) *The Superintendent shall conduct an annual evaluation on*
22 *the effectiveness of the Advanced Placement Challenge Grant*
23 *Program and report its findings to the Governor and the*
24 *Legislature. This evaluation shall include, but is not limited to:*

25 (1) *The increase in the number of students enrolled in AP*
26 *classes.*

27 (2) *The number of additional AP course offerings by academic*
28 *subject area.*

29 (3) *The increase in the number of students that take the AP*
30 *exam by academic subject area.*

31 (4) *The increase in the number of students that pass the AP*
32 *exam by subject area.*

33 (j) *Each school receiving funding under the Advanced*
34 *Placement Challenge Grant Program is required to collect this*
35 *data and submit it to the Superintendent. Funding for this study*
36 *shall come from the Advanced Placement Challenge Grant*
37 *Program but may not exceed 2 percent of the total amount of*
38 *grants awarded in a given year.*

39 (k) *For purposes of this section, "vertical team of teachers"*
40 *means a group of educators from different grade levels in a given*

1 *discipline who work cooperatively to develop and implement a*
2 *program aimed at helping pupils acquire the academic skills*
3 *necessary to prepare them to successfully undertake advanced*
4 *placement coursework.*

5 *(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any*
6 *action or expenditure on the part of a school district in excess of*
7 *the amount of funding provided for the purposes of this program*
8 *or that would require reimbursement by the Commission on State*
9 *Mandates pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the*
10 *California Constitution and Part 7 (commencing with Section*
11 *17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

12 *(m) Funds provided for the purposes of this section shall*
13 *supplement existing programs or services provided at a*
14 *qualifying high school that are consistent with this section and*
15 *may not be used to supplant funding for those programs and*
16 *services.*

17 *(n) For purposes of this section, high schools receiving grants*
18 *pursuant to this section may utilize the services of county offices*
19 *of education, including, but not limited to, services for providing*
20 *access to advanced placement courses to small rural schools.*